

12/30/71

Dear Paul (JMS),

This is a progress/non-progress report. I've just finished certain overdue household chores your recollections of this part of the country will tell you are necessary, like putting the glass panes in the storm doors, something I should have done before my recent trip. There is not enough time to get back to writing before the mail comes, and I will want to do whatever it may require immediately so I can return to writing and because Jerry P is coming today. He will be here until Monday, when Howard comes. He will stay here for at least one week, perhaps two. At some point after the passing of about 7 days, a fellow writer, probably the outstanding expert on the Kaplan-Vidal case, is coming for an undecided number of days. I have to go to NYC 1/14, Gary will be here when I return, 2/7 I have to leave on a suit I've filed to try to collect what one of the more accessible wholesalers owes me (and how I wish I could get the copies of OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS John C is supposed to have left in the basement of his Pacific Ave., place!). Meanwhile, our important damage suit vs the Army et al now has a lawyer who was due here this week but hasn't peeped about it, and that will require much time and effort. Or, aside from what is normally work, I'm pretty busy. And, by the time you can get this, Lil will have begun work for the tax season, our only regular, is slight, income. So she, too, is limited in what she can do.

Which leads to the notes I haven't sent you. I've had her as busy as she can be working on the needs of POST MORTEM. She is in the new final chapter of the panel part in her typing, has a rather long introduction to the whole shebang I've finished ahead of her, and I'm doing the new conclusions (basically the last chapter, WAKETH THE WATCHMAN, form who was III, but with changes and adds). If I can get this done before JP gets here, it is possible she can get all this stuff typed before she begins work. Then I'll be able to put it all together with correct pages, etc., and start on the appendix, where I'll have to do some of what I had done over because the magic tape yellowed and should it be possible to arrange for printing, that would show. There seems to be some kind of chemical reaction between this tape and the 3M paper positive and xeroxed sheets, although I'm not certain of the latter. And undoing and redoing takes more time than just doing.

All that I have considered making notes on is recorded, including on tape and in my terrible scrawl, which Lil can read better than anyone. So, they are not lost. Just delayed. But perhaps by the time you get to the work you'll be doing, they'll be done. In any event, in some form, plus my recollection, they'll be available to you.

I am and will be anxious to complete the two other books I've started, AGENT OSWALD and TIGER, probably in that order, although any expression of interest in the latter would change this. I think The PENTAGON PAPERS have the capability of doing this, but the chances are not great. I'll not have time to go over all the stuff I've not been able to card and file, and I've not begun to read the accumulation, for I'll want to card and file when I do. This means that except for the Ferrie and Valle material in the 1970 declassification, I am not familiar with it. With AO this can be a real problem. So, as I think I've asked before, it could be a great help if the two of you, when you can and when you think of it, could make a few notes of those docs in that file you think I should go over before returning to the writing of AO. I've forgotten what might be relevant in the Texas papers, and if there was anything in your microfilm that I had printed out at the same time that relates, I've not gone over that, either. I don't expect to be able to get much help from Smith on this. I do expect him here in the not distant future to go over the rifle, pistol, ammo stuff. I think he is a bit surprised to find that when he is not inside the walls of the booby hatch and when it is not material there is much prospect of the other zanies misusing, full cooperation is available and offered. (I've heard nothing from Bud and Jim since I saw them both the week after I returned, and I've heard nothing from Gary, who may well be in Germany gloating over her new granddaughter named for her.) Best regards, and hopes for a good year,